

UPDATE: Joann McGuckin Statement At Idaho Rally
JJ Johnson 06.11.01

Today at approximately 10:30 AM the 2nd Counsel to Joann McGuckin under Bryce Powell, Sarah Seaborg issued a statement from JoAnn McGuckin after a hearing that was to determine what would be done with her children. Seaborg said she was optimistic that everyone would be released on Thursday. The children were with a foster family who are taking the kids on a few outings while they are with them.

JoAnn said in her statement that was read by Ms. Seaborg to the rally attendants:

"If the purpose of the rally is to raise money, I do not honor your causes. Please do not do it in my name. Ya'll are welcome to make your own political ideas known, of course, as you wish. Please do not do it in my name, as I cannot honor your causes. I do not accept from that which I feel I cannot return the favor. This is one of those times. Cordially, JoAnn Dunn McGuckin"

McGuckin has said that after the hearing she might talk to the media. She has also made it known in the hearing today, in which Edgar Steele was present, that she did not want Steele representing her.

Mr Steele was then removed as her attorney at her request. This may be due in part to Mr. Steele's previous success in representing Aryan Nations founder Richard Butler. Many of the questions asked by mainstream media news reporters at the press conference seemed to intimate that Idaho has become an "anti-government" state, and the sentiment throughout the area is one of dissatisfaction with the image. This concern seems to have spilled over into today's Court proceeding.

Many of those at today's rally seemed to echo that concern, expressing a distaste for what almost appears to be an orchestrated smear campaign against Idaho and Idahoans.

The image seems to be unwarranted... This reporter has seen no indication of such sentiments, and has been treated respectfully at all times since arriving in Sandpoint yesterday evening. However, it is apparent that Idaho has a serious public relations problem on its hands, and the McGuckin situation has only added fuel to that fire.

More as the situation unfolds.

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